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bedlam

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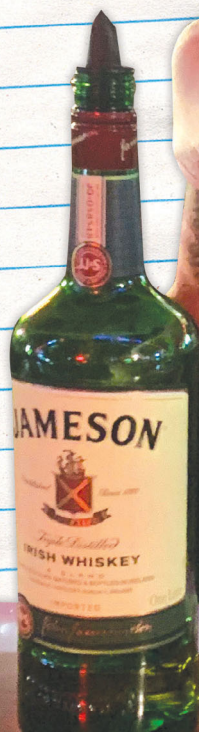
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28



33

9 FEATURE BEDLAM

A man is gunned down at a St. Paul bar. Commence the messy manufacture of American justice. *by Susan Du*

4 NEWS

THE SHORTLIST
Worst president ever
BLOTTER
A home-improvement star moves on
MULLEN
Minnesotans' greatness, archived

17 FOOD

CRANBERRIES
At James Lake Farms, they're grown naturally

22 A-LIST

STRIP WARS
HOLIDAY SPECIAL
Wicked Wenches pay a naughty tribute to *Star Wars*

28 FILM

CREED II
Stallone and Jordan back in the ring

29 ART

THE WICKHAMS
The Jungle returns to the world of *Pride and Prejudice*

31 FASHION

STREET STYLE
"Catch a Body" art exhibit

33 MUSIC

MARTIN DEVANEY
His new *Plaid on Plaid* looks back and gets personal

34 CRITICS' PICKS

FREE WILL
ASTROLOGY
CROSSWORD

36 CLASSIFIEDS SAVAGE LOVE

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CITY PAGES ONLINE www.citypages.com
OFFICE HOURS Monday-Friday
8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

ISSN 0744-0456. City Pages is published weekly by Star Tribune Media Company, LLC. City Pages is located at 800 1st St. N., Ste. 300, Minneapolis, MN 55401. City Pages is available free of charge, limited to one copy per reader. Additional copies of the current issue may be purchased at the City Pages office for \$1, payable in advance. No person may, without prior written permission of City Pages, take more than one copy of each City Pages weekly issue. Subscriptions are available for \$100 per year. Subscription orders must include check or money order payable to City Pages, and should be mailed to City Pages Subscriptions, 800 1st St. N., Ste. 300, Minneapolis, MN 55401. Periodicals postage paid at Minneapolis, Minnesota. Postmaster: Send address changes to City Pages, 800 1st St. N., Ste. 300, Minneapolis, MN 55401.

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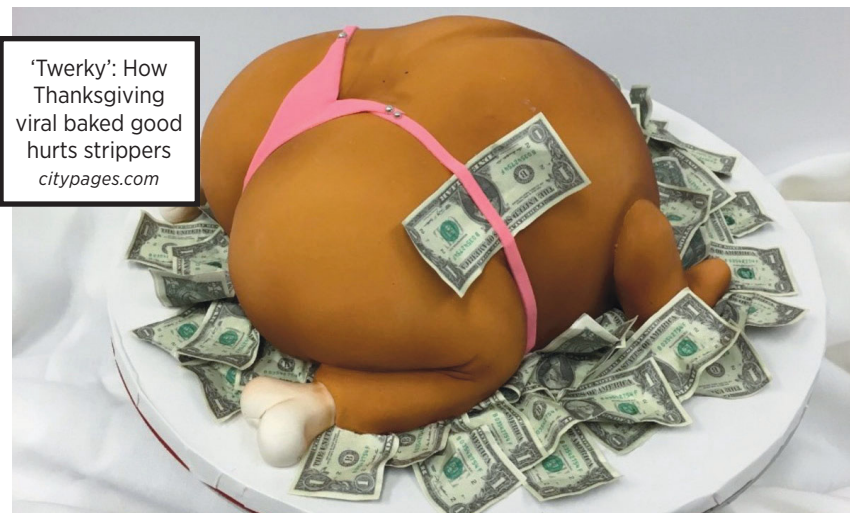
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NADIA CAKES

THE STAT SHEET

2.1%

The Twin Cities' unemployment rate,
the lowest of any major metro area
in the country

\$18.60

Hourly wage a full-time worker
would need to afford the average
two-bedroom home in Minnesota

30th

State ranking of Minnesota hospitals
for safety issues such as preventable
errors and infections

\$323

Mayor Melvin Carter's proposed
tax increase for the average
St. Paul homeowner

**"If rakes are a reasonable solution to climate
change-driven wildfires, hockey pucks are
great against domestic terrorists!"**

Reader Kate Anderson responds to "The
latest defense against school shooters: Chuck
hockey pucks at 'em," at citypages.com

WINNING?

YOU ARE NOW LIVING through the worst
presidency in U.S. history. That's the ruling
of the American Political Science Associa-
tion, which surveyed 170 scholars to rank
our leaders from worst to first.

Donald Trump bumped James Buchanan
from the lowliest spot—quite a feat since
Buchanan led the nation into civil war.
Trump did finish first in one category—most
divisive—but it's probably not something
even he could brag about.

The five best, in order: Abraham Lincoln,
George Washington, Franklin Delano Roo-
sevelt, Theodore Roosevelt, and Thomas
Jefferson.

POPULAR STORIES AT CITYPAGES.COM

ANDREW ZIMMERN under fire
for insensitivity, appropriation,
after 'horseshit' Midwestern
Chinese food remarks

Conservatives claim
REP. ILHAN OMAR is plotting
to enslave the white man

North Minneapolis woman says
she has to wear '**LEVEL 3A BODY
ARMOR**' to leave her house

LISA BENDER accuses Star Tribune
of sexism because she doesn't
shovel her sidewalk

Minneapolis mayor promises
to fire someone for cops'
'RACIST' CHRISTMAS TREE

STOP THE FIGHT

Reality TV host Nicole Curtis has rehabbed her last house in Minneapolis

Nicole Curtis, the feisty host of the HGTV reality show *Rehab Addict*, had an announcement to make. Her years-long fixup of an old Victorian on Hillside Avenue in north Minneapolis was finally over. “Almost time to open the doors to my LAST Minneapolis project,” she posted on Instagram.

It’s an interesting way to announce that she is washing her hands of an entire city, but Curtis has long been at war with Minneapolis over this very property.

It all began in 2012, when the TV host bought the condemned house from the city for \$2. She agreed to “substantially complete construction” within a year.

A year came and went. Felled trees and building detritus littered the yard, and the house remained uninhabitable. Neighbors shook their heads and worried about trespassers and drug dealers taking

up residence. “If this was in Edina, she would be crucified,” resident Jonathan Lundberg told City Pages in 2015.

Curtis always seemed to have something new to say about why she was behind. In 2014 she posted about contractors that “kept pushing back” and left worksites “in shambles.” Two contractors filed liens totaling \$36,000 for unpaid work. The property later fell behind on its taxes.

In 2015, an unnamed person running Curtis’ Facebook account wrote that “someone threatened [Curtis] and issued a letter blackmailing her regarding the property. Therefore, it is on hold again.”

Meanwhile, Curtis and other preservationists were protesting the razing of the historical Orth House in Uptown. Curtis called City Council Member Lisa Bender a “liar” and “destroyer of history.”

In 2017, the city took Curtis to court, saying she had failed to redevelop the property



Nicole Curtis announces she’s taking her television talents elsewhere.

LAUREN NOESS

on time, pay taxes, and maintain insurance. The city wanted her to give it back.

Curtis laid the blame at the city’s feet. She accused it of blocking her efforts by demanding a \$200,000 deposit in exchange for a building permit. The city denied it did any such thing.

The two parties eventually settled. Now the end has come—not with a bang, but with an Instagram post.

After years of fighting with Minneapolis residents and government, Nicole Curtis intends to take her hammer—and her smile—elsewhere. —HANNAH JONES



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Minnesotans' Curious Self-Obsession

13 above-average facts about Minnesota

Minnesotans' belief in their and their state's excellence is so ingrained, we archive it. The Legislative Reference Library in St. Paul maintains three-ringed binders called "MINNESOTA PRAISE," each bursting with positive news clippings, optimistic research, and rosy miscellany.

Take the 1976 Minneapolis Star survey of nearly 600 residents, described as a "gregarious and neighborly population" who gave upbeat answers about many topics—"most say area is above average in sports"—and determined that life in these parts is better than anywhere this side of St. Peter's gate.

We're generous, active, and sophisticated. Just ask us!

Let's not let "MINNESOTA PRAISE" gather dust. Let us coin mottos, in the Midwestern tradition of Garrison Keillor and assorted ad agencies. We shall weld insecurity, modesty, and ego into pithy wordplay, and our greatness shall, in time, be widely known.

Claim: According to a 2004 St. Cloud Times story touting the region's unique and superior qualities, "St. Cloud is the world's largest freezer producer," Tenvoorde Ford (est. 1901) is the oldest family-owned Ford dealership, and Grede Foundries maintained a "far higher safety rating than U.S. foundries in general... based on federal data."

Motto: "Visit St. Cloud, where the peas never thaw, the Ford dealer inherited the

lot from his dad, and men with large backs are significantly less likely to drop half-shapen sewer grates on their feet."

Claim: In 2002, the Twin Cities was ranked as the No. 1 worldwide hub for the "knowledge economy," according to Welsh consulting firm Robert Huggins Associates.

Motto: "Move to Minneapolis-St. Paul! We promise we won't use the phrase 'knowledge economy' more than three times during happy hour."

Claim: Only Florida has more water skis per person than Minnesota.

Motto: "Waterski Minnesota, where, unlike Florida, we're not using our water skis to seal off a closet door containing a rabid bat or ex-husband."

Claim: In 2003, Woodbury was described as the "most desirable place of its size to live in the central United States."

Motto: "Woodbury: If you'll swallow that many qualifiers just to argue we're 'desirable,' you already live here."

Claim: Crookston purports to be the proud home of the "world's largest oxcart."

Motto: "Do commerce in Crookston! Unless you're a giant ox. In that case, run like hell."

Claim: In 1991, Minnesota was labeled one of the best destinations to relocate an international business, thanks in part to praise from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Motto: "Minnesota: We're also so passive-aggressive we won't mention your birthmark until after you leave the room."

Claim: Madison, Minnesota, says it's the nation's "lutefisk capital," citing its annual Stinker Days celebration.

Motto: "Move to Madison, where the smell of your breath will deter every human encounter."

Claim: Longville is the "turtle racing capital" of America.

Motto: "Life in Longville is so comfortable, even the reptiles have a surplus of free time."

Claim: In 2000, the U.S. Census Bureau labeled Minnesota the "minivan capital of the United States."

Motto: "Minnesota: You chuckle, but the screaming kids in this Windstar means someone agreed to have sex with me more than once!"

Claim: In 2013, Movoto.com called Minneapolis the number-one city in the country "where you might be eaten by a dragon."

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Mike Mullen

Motto: "Minneapolis: PLEASE COME HERE IMMEDIATELY AND SAVE US FROM THESE DRAGONS THEY ARE FUCKING TERRIF— [gets eaten by dragon.]"

Claim: In 2000, Techies.com said Minneapolis-St. Paul is the fourth most-affordable city for internet and tech workers, behind only Austin, Dallas, and Houston.

Motto: "Would you really want to live in a state that seceded from Mexico and the United States, and elected Ted Cruz?"

Claim: In the mid-2000s, Minneapolis' U.S. Bank held more mortgage loans than any other American bank.

Motto: "Minneapolis: The only place where your neighbor doesn't just wanna screw you. He insists on it."

Claim: In 2007, a study confirmed the Twin Cities has the highest percentage of 16-and-up residents who'd done at least some volunteering the previous year.

Motto: "And that doesn't even include the many of us who volunteer their time phone banking to tell all their friends how great it is to live here, especially compared to Wisconsin. I mean, can you even imagine? Anyway, the point is, TELL ME I'M GOOD ENOUGH!" ☑

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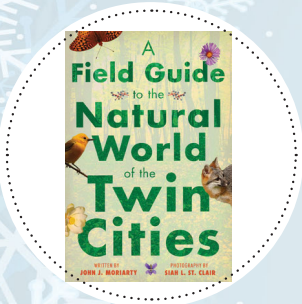


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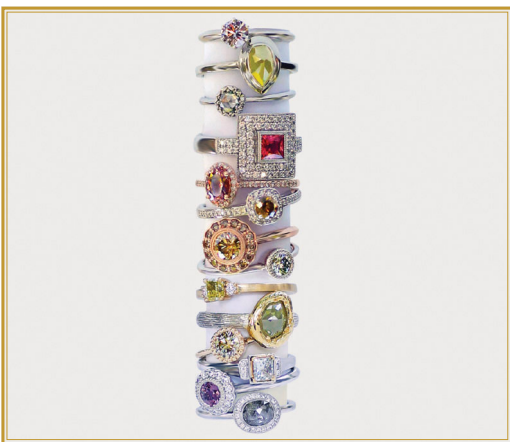
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ILLUSTRATION BY EMILY UTNE

**A man is gunned down
at a St. Paul bar.
Commence the
messy manufacture
of American justice.**

by SUSAN DU

I. ONE SHOT, TWO SUSPECTS

Shortly before midnight on a hot Sunday in June, 28-year-old Carlos Rogers walks up to Born's Bar on St. Paul's Rice Street. He's scarred and tattooed, his hair in cornrows tied back in a low ponytail. Narrowly built, he stands no taller than the three women

accompanying him—his girlfriend and two others.

Just released from a four-year stint in St. Cloud state prison for leading cops on a car chase with 51 grams of cocaine in his possession, Rogers is making the most of his summer. He'd barbecued and taken his kids to a water park earlier in the day. Now he'll have drinks with friends in the final hours of the weekend.

Before the night is through, Rogers will be dead.

His murderer is one of two men who

arrive in a cherry Monte Carlo at about 1:30 a.m. There's Charles Frye, a skinny 37-year-old with shoulder-length dreadlocks, wearing a white shirt and matching baseball cap. His friend is 29-year-old Justin Reynolds, tall with a baby face on broad shoulders, wearing longer dreads and a bright red jersey. He's accompanied by his girlfriend. The three have just come from Hogs Breath, another Rice Street bar. Now, just a half-hour to bar close, the bouncer has locked Born's doors. People who step out to smoke aren't allowed back in. A crowd forms on the sidewalk. Conflicts flare.

Rogers is drunk on Hennessy and causing a small scene near the front door. The bouncer won't let his girlfriend, who is wobbling on her feet, re-enter.

He's just put Rogers out as well, knocking the beer out of his hands. Rogers jabs a finger and, according to the bouncer, threatens to kill him.

Suddenly, one of Rogers' friends, Denise White, picks a fight with a female bystander, whom she imagines to have reached out and hit Rogers. (Security footage shows no such thing.) White flails her purse. The other woman fights back. They wrestle each other down the sidewalk.

Men pull the two apart. Then Frye, who has been hanging back, smoking a cigarette, steps in and begins to argue with Rogers. They scuffle. Punches are thrown.

Rogers dashes into the street. Frye gives chase, his friend Reynolds close behind. As Rogers turns to face the two, separated by a car parked curbside, Frye lunges across its hood.

A gunshot rings out. A woman screams. Rogers falls to the ground, shot through the left cheek. People duck and scatter.

Cameras catch Frye making off alone in the Monte Carlo, pulling a U-turn in the street in front of Born's, then whizzing past Reynolds' girlfriend as she throws out her hands to get his attention. Reynolds bolts down the sidewalk, frantically calls the mother of his child about a dozen times without answer, and is finally scooped up by a friend.

II. CONFLICTING EYEWITNESSES AND A SIX-YEAR GRUDGE

Calls flood 911 as St. Paul police converge.

They find Carlos Rogers bleeding in the street, Denise White kneeling at his side. Officers conduct CPR and cordon the scene from growing clusters of onlookers screaming profanities and hurling glass bottles. The cops attempt to interview witnesses. Most tell them to "fuck off."

In the quiet of the bar's back office, an officer plays footage from a camera stationed above the front door. He watches the assorted arguments and fights erupt-

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RAMSEY COUNTY DISTRICT COURT



Two eyewitnesses identified two different murderers. The more accurate one refused to testify.

Police round up potential witnesses for interviews at headquarters. Among them are the three women in Rogers' crew.

His girlfriend saw nothing. She says she'd been trying to pull Rogers out of the fray when

he shoved her aside, upending her purse. She was gathering her things as the shot rang out. Then she ran from the sound.

Another woman says she'd gone around the block to fetch their car. She's of no help either.

But Denise White, who'd been sparring with a stranger moments before the shooting, claims to have witnessed everything. She recalls that as Frye swung at Rogers, he fell toward the car in between them and shouted, "Get that n---!"

Reynolds then raised a gun and pulled the trigger, she tells police.

White also has a theory. She believes Frye and Rogers have a history that runs deeper than an ordinary bar fight.

In 2011, one of Rogers' closest friends, suspected E-Block gang member Dekota Galtney, was shot dead in the street. A 22-year-old was convicted for it, but a rumor persists that Frye ordered the gunman to shoot. (Police established no such connection, and Frye was never charged.)

That same year, Rogers allegedly stabbed Frye at a house party in retribution.

White believes that Rogers' murder mirrors Galtney's, with Frye as mastermind, his friend as enforcer.

She doesn't know Reynolds' name, but she recalls him arriving at Born's in a black T-shirt and blue shorts with bleach stains. After the shooting, he, his girlfriend, and Frye had gotten away in a black truck with tinted windows.

ing along the sidewalk, culminating in a fraction of a second in which a tell-tale muzzle flash blooms in the dark, and the victim falls back. Then he rewinds, and rewinds again.

The video is primitive, grainy and soft. Objects appear as smudges—Rorschach blots open to interpretation. An awning cuts through the top half of the camera's view, obscuring the triggerman. It's difficult to track individuals in movement throughout the muddy tableau, much less locate the gun and place it in a hand.

The officer makes a judgment call. He thinks the shooter is most likely the man with shoulder-length dreads, white baseball cap, and white T-shirt—the man later identified as Charles Frye.

Soon the first witness, a woman living in an apartment across the street, calls 911 to support that conclusion.

She'd been looking out her window, just in time to see a shooter in white fire. He then walked quickly down the sidewalk, cut across the street, and climbed into a red Chevy Monte Carlo with a sunroof. She gives a partial license plate: 685.

Detectives will eventually verify her details, with the exception that the plate numbers were arranged in a slightly different order. About the same time, an officer on the street overhears people screaming, "red Monte Carlo." But the case is not as straightforward as it initially appears.

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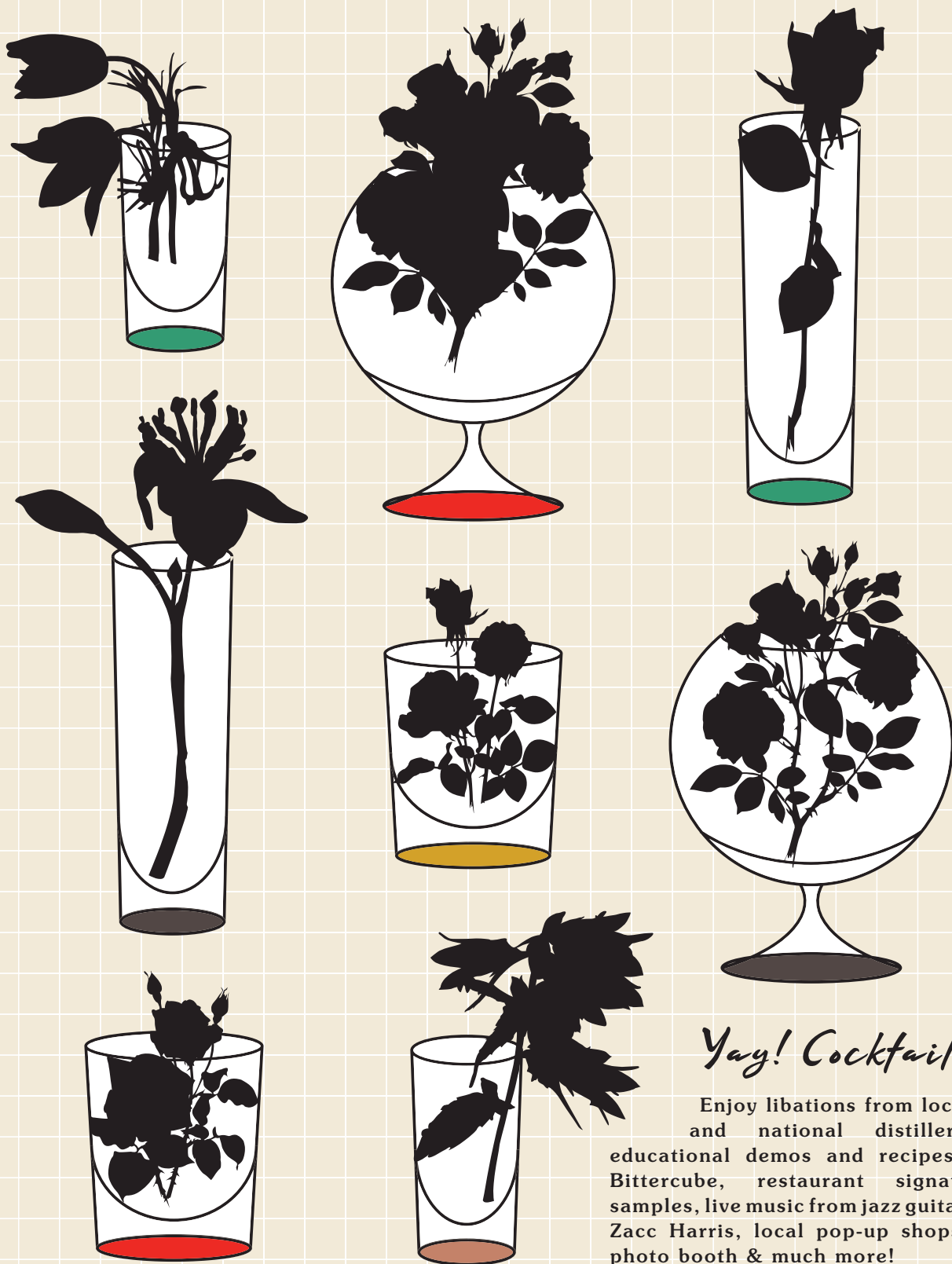
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Rice Street's cameras will prove each of her statements wrong.

Yet White is willing to testify. The 911 caller, by contrast, adamantly refuses to identify herself for fear of retaliation. Her words will never enter a courtroom.

A man is dead. His extensive network of family and friends want justice. What's more, they all seem to believe the killing is but the latest reaction in a chain of retaliatory violence—history repeating itself.

III. TRIAL BY SOCIAL MEDIA

As police identify the suspects, a picture emerges of who they are in the eyes of the law. Like the victim Rogers, Justin Reynolds and Charles Frye are well acquainted with the system.

Reynolds has racked up felonies for assault, terroristic threats, and domestic

for him during a shootout, Acon once told a gang investigator.) He is livid to hear the news.

In a phone call intercepted by prison staff, the inmate initially thinks Rogers has been murdered by the East Side Boys or Selby Siders. When a friend tells him Lawson is at fault, Acon accepts the idea without question, as if it's all the same.

"I want one of these n---s," Acon says during the call. "I fixing to slit one of these motherfucker's throats.... On my mama. Motherfucker gonna show you all what the Block really do."

Two days after the shooting, on June 13, the Ramsey County Attorney's Office confirms popular suspicions. It charges Reynolds and Frye with second-degree murder while aiding and abetting each other.

Though most of her initial statement to police has already been proved wrong, the criminal complaint leans almost exclu-

They all seem to believe the killing is but the latest reaction in a long chain of retaliatory violence—history repeating itself.

assault. Frye has three cocaine convictions and one for terroristic threats.

He'd also been charged with murder once before. In 2006, a woman accused him of groping her outside another Rice Street bar, Diva's, then shooting her brother in the chest when he tried to intervene.

Police would find insufficient evidence. The charges were dismissed.

Social media, however, was far more interested in the men's alleged gang ties.

Frye's Facebook page shows him and Reynolds posing with a gaggle of friends around a pool table, holding up "L" signs—presumably for the Lawson Boys gang of north central St. Paul. In the photo, they look like mostly older men past their prime.

Still, it makes for speculation. Facebook theories of unknown origin fixate on a fabled blood feud between Lawson and E-Block.

Many speculate that the Born's bouncer who'd nearly come to blows with Carlos Rogers provided the gun.

Then there's the rumor—later debunked—that Frye's girlfriend is the woman who'd fought with Denise White, as if to divert attention from the assassination to come.

Either way, word spreads that Reynolds, the baby-faced "enforcer," is wanted by police.

The whispers reach Stillwater prison inmate Glen Acon, who's serving time for killing an 18-year-old in a gang dispute at Indian Mounds Regional Park in 2016.

Acon and Rogers had been as close as brothers, going so far as to get tattoos of each other's faces. (Rogers took bullets

sively on Denise White, whose words are the basis for probable cause in each subsequent search warrant.

The manhunt is on. Authorities stake out Frye and Reynolds' girlfriends. They get warrants to trace their phones.

Frye is arrested in Faribault, where he's living in a garage with takeout containers and plastic bags holding human feces. Friends who'd picked him up from St. Paul say they knew he was in some kind of trouble, but didn't press for details. He immediately requests an attorney.

Reynolds is arrested in Chicago, where he sits down with St. Paul police. He claims he took the Megabus to see his father, knows no one named Charles Frye, and has no idea why he's been arrested.

Murder, police inform him. Reynolds stops talking.

IV. A MURDER WITHIN A MURDER

In late October, after Justin Reynolds and Charles Frye spend four months in the Ramsey County Jail, the prosecution abruptly loses its key witness.

Denise White has been implicated in a murder of her own.

The complaint says 38-year-old Dawahn Littles had been hosting an after-bar party at his home in St. Paul's Frogtown neighborhood when White fought with several women trying to leave in a car. She allegedly smashed out a window, pulled out a handgun, and fired into a crowd.

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RAMSEY COUNTY JAIL

Charles Eugene Frye (left), and
Justin Darrell Reynolds

Littles was struck in the chest. He died at the hospital.

White fled to an acquaintance's house, say police, where she was admitted by a man who recognized her as a family friend. The man tells detectives that White sat on his couch, crying and repeating, "I shot him, I shot him," while trying to wipe down a gun in her hand with a baby blanket.

(She eventually pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced to 12 years in Shakopee.)

White's arrest means she can no longer testify in the Born's case, lest defense lawyers use her own murder charge to sully her words.

Charges against Frye are dismissed, since White is the only person claiming to have heard him yell, "Get that n---!"

But prosecutors are determined not to let Reynolds off the hook.

St. Paul Sgt. Shawn Shanley and Ramsey County prosecutor Dawn Bakst re-interview several people who were at Born's the night of Carlos Rogers' murder. They remain of little help. They weren't watching when the gun went off. They hadn't seen it in anyone's hand. They have no idea where it could have ended up.

Eventually, Shanley and Bakst call Rogers' girlfriend, Shaneka Mayberry. On the night of the shooting, she told police she'd been on the ground, picking up the contents of her purse when the gun went off. She'd seen nothing.

But four months later, Mayberry has a much different story to tell. She now recalls seeing "the bigger guy" with long dreads holding a gun.

V. "THE WHOLE WORLD IS FULL OF LIES"

Justin Reynolds' defense is basic: Police have the wrong guy.

Faced with up to 40 years behind bars, he finally breaks his silence, tell-

ing prosecutors that Charles Frye was the real gunman.

Reynolds says he fled after the shooting, finding his way to the home of the girlfriend who'd accompanied him to Born's. At one point, Frye dropped by her home to tell him not to snitch.

Reynolds' lawyers hope to prove he lacked the motive for murder. Frye and Rogers are the ones with the poisoned history.

Yet Judge Judith Tilsen declines to allow evidence involving gangs, previous shootings, beefs, or the victim's own criminal past.

Until the day before the trial, prosecutors also refuse to release the phone number of the anonymous 911 caller, though she'd proven to be the most accurate witness on the night of the shooting. Reynolds' attorney, Michael Padden, cannot convince her to testify on short notice.

Judge Tilsen won't permit the jury to hear a recording of her 911 call, deeming it hearsay.

Yet the judge will grant prosecutors an important advantage.

Six days before the shooting, police were called to the apartment of Reynolds' ex-girlfriend. She accused him of breaking in with two other men and pointing a gun at her new boyfriend's head. Responding officers questioned her credibility, and Reynolds was never charged.

Prosecutor Bakst wants to present the incident as evidence, believing the details echo the Born's shooting. A handgun is involved. It takes place in the same area of St. Paul. Judge Tilsen rules this thesis permissible.

Shaneka Mayberry, Rogers' girlfriend, testifies with a newfound clarity, now saying she saw Reynolds not only holding the gun, but tucking it away in his

pants. She claims trauma cleansed her memory the night of the shooting, but can't explain why she never called police when her memories returned.

Born's low-quality security video is a free-for-all between the lawyers. Neither side calls a forensic video analyst, choosing instead to project their own theories onto it. Bakst claims the lack of gunpowder residue on the victim's face means he'd been shot from a distance by Reynolds, who is shown standing behind Frye.

Defense attorney Padden counters that the muzzle flash can't come from Reynolds. From where he's standing, it would require an impossibly long reach.

The jury seems at a loss, asking to review the video time and again with a magnifying glass.

The murder weapon is never recovered.

The tale of Reynolds' gun-brandishing at his ex-girlfriend's apartment also falls apart. Reynolds did show up at her apartment with two other men, the woman says. But she can't recall if it was day or night—or who pointed the gun. He may have just come to pick up their son. She can't be sure.

She'd also told a responding officer, "The whole world is made up of lies." When Padden presses her about possibly lying to that cop, she answers insouciantly, "I probably did."

Reynolds doesn't testify. To do so would allow prosecutors to grill him about past convictions.

Defense attorney Padden asks Judge Tilsen to remove the "aiding and abetting" portion of the second-degree murder charge. He argues that it's implausible for Reynolds to be accused of both shooting Rogers and abetting himself.

Tilsen refuses.

In her closing statement, prosecutor Bakst insists Reynolds has to be the triggerman, while leaving herself an opening.

"Even if you do believe Mr. Padden's theory of the events, the defendant would still be guilty of aiding and abetting murder. He was there.... He arrived with Charles Frye. He was part of the argument with Charles Frye. He stood right there with Charles Frye when the shot was fired."

The jury doesn't take long to convict Reynolds on the single charge of aiding and abetting murder in the second degree.

He is eventually sentenced to 32 years.

His case is now on appeal. Reynolds asserts that Judge Tilsen handcuffed him from proving Frye had the greater motive to shoot, and that Shaneka Mayberry provided false testimony. The Ramsey County Attorney's Office hasn't officially responded. It would only say in a prepared statement: "We vigorously dispute the characterization of the facts by the defense attorney."

The investigation into Charles Frye is ongoing. 



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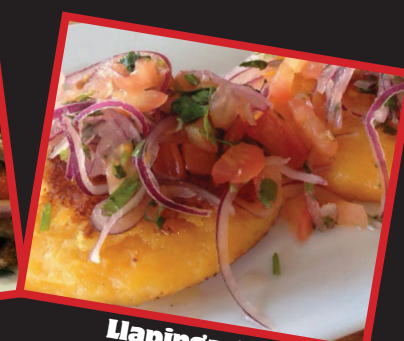
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PHIL CARDAMONE

A BITTERSWEET HARVEST

Enjoying cranberries during the holiday season? You might have this Midwestern farm to thank.

BY BETH DOOLEY

As soon as cranberries appear in my co-op each October, I launch into full holiday mode. Though I grew up near New Jersey's cranberry bogs, I didn't witness the harvest until I moved to the Midwest. It's breathtaking: Crimson ponds pulse under the bluest autumn skies, and sandhill cranes arch their graceful necks on shore. (The name "cranberry" was inspired by those birds; they were once called "craneberries.")

Our eastern neighbor, Wisconsin, grows more than 60 percent of the world's fresh cranberries. Iconic, intense, and bittersweet, the bright red pods are the final fruit of the season, earth's bonny farewell until spring.

"All of us cranberry growers are, in our hearts, conservationists," says John Stauner

of James Lake Farms. Located near the small town of Three Lakes, Wisconsin, James Lake is one of the largest organic cranberry growers in the country, encompassing 190 acres of productive cranberry marsh surrounded by 1,540 acres of support land. And Stauner really is a conservationist, more so than others. With nearly 30 years in the business and degrees in natural resources and water chemistry, he's deeply committed to sustainable practices.

"There's a science and an art to cranberry growing," he says. First, the science: Cultivating these cheery red orbs is a tough, risky business. The season is short, and the marshy environment supports all manner of lethal bugs—black-headed fireworms, fruit worms—as well as noxious weeds, ruinous plant diseases, and

fungus. Conventional growers manage them with chemicals, but many of those are known carcinogens and hormone disruptors that are then discharged into our waterways and cycled into our drinking water.

Not Stauner. He understands the danger of these practices, how they quiet the singing birds, the croaking frogs, the buzzing and whirring insects. "A marsh that has been sprayed is eerily silent; I want diversity on this land," he says. "The wildlife is inspiring. Toads, frogs, tadpoles, freshwater sponges, ducks, geese, and nesting loons—the place is alive." Besides, there are three different species of native bumblebees and pollinators to think about: "We have a natural pollinator base that we're care-

ful to protect; we do not use the harsh chemicals that combat them."

Second is the art. James Lake grows five different varieties of cranberries that ripen throughout the season. "We know our land; it's a beautiful, complex ecosystem," Stauner says. "The work is to keep it in balance." This means caring for the vines, spending time to hand weed instead of using chemicals, and planting different varieties that ripen in sequence, so all of the fields aren't flooded at once, disrupting the water tables. "It's certainly more challenging to farm this way, but that's why I like it best," Stauner says. "It's a gift to hear the loons in the morning and to see the sandhill cranes fly in. That makes the extra effort worthwhile."

Stauner meets the challenges that flummox conventional chemical farmers by combining state-of-the-art technology with his heritage wisdom. At James Lake, a mechanical clipper helps control weeds; the farm uses mating disruption techniques to discourage pests from reproducing by piping sounds and vibrations into the bogs; and in the spring, the marshes are flooded to drown insects as they hatch.

Because cranberries contain pockets of air, they float when the fields are flooded so they can be more easily raked off of their vines. They're then scooped into trucks and taken to the packing shed. Their tough skin protects them from absorbing too much water, and because of the air pocket, they're like little balls that bounce when they roll off the table and hit the floor. They were once nicknamed "bounce berries."

James Lake is truly a family business, and the values of sustainability don't end at the farm. John works alongside his wife Nora's son, Ben Riker, a National Guard veteran who served eight years in the Wisconsin National Guard and was twice deployed to the Middle East. Ben manages the operation and now lives on the land with his own wife and two children. He's an advocate for veterans and a leader in the Farmer Veteran Coalition, which provides tools to help vets transition from military service to careers in agriculture.

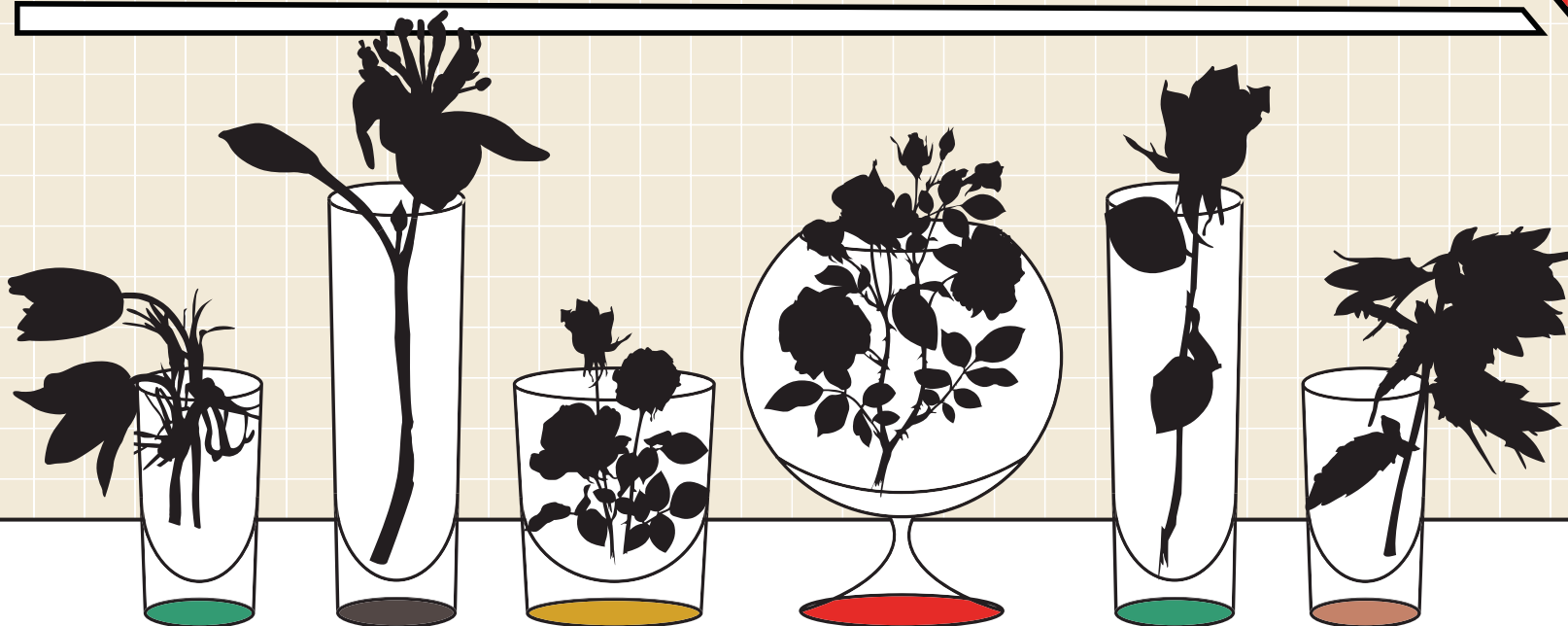
"Veterans possess the unique skills and character needed to strengthen rural communities and create sustainable food systems for us all," he says.

As the region's largest organic grower, Stauner helps conventional chemical farmers adapt alternative sustainable

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methods to protect their land. He was recently recognized for his service and innovation with the industry's Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers (WSCG) President's Award.

"We now have three grandchildren growing up on the property learning about cranberries, and to me, that's most rewarding," Stauner says. "We love to grow cranberries, and having the family here, sharing this lifestyle and our values, is its own reward." 



EASY CRANBERRY RECIPES

Both of these recipes make fabulous condiments for turkey, wild game, and chicken. Swirl them into mayonnaise for sandwiches or to toss into a salad. Or simply serve alongside cheeses.

Fresh Cranberry Relish

Makes about 2 to 2 1/2 cups

- 3 cups fresh cranberries, rinsed and sorted
- 2 tablespoons fresh orange zest
- 1/4 cup fresh orange juice
- 1/4 cup chopped crystallized ginger, optional
- 1/4 to 1/2 cup sugar or honey to taste

Put all of the ingredients into a food processor fitted with a steel blade, and chop until fine. Store in a covered container in the refrigerator.

Cranberry Sauce

Makes about 2 cups

- 3 cups fresh cranberries, rinsed and sorted
- 1/2 cup apple cider
- 1/4 to 1/2 cup honey, maple syrup, or sugar, to taste

In a medium saucepan, bring the cranberries and cider to a boil. Reduce the heat and simmer until the berries have popped open, about three to five minutes. Stir in the honey or maple syrup or sugar to taste.

Don't sweeten this sauce until after the berries have opened, as it will make them tough. After cooling, store in a covered container in the refrigerator for up to a month.

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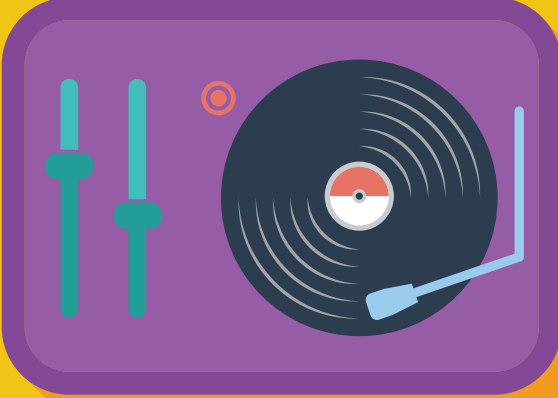


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🏆 BEST CONCERT VENUE - CITY PAGES 2018

GREYCOATS AND WAX LEAD
w/ TEMPLE, WET LEGS
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

MIDDLE KIDS
w/ THE SHACKS
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

ANA SIA AND ILL-ESHA
w/ AIMERIE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

FINESSE Maxi-Single Release Show
w/ XO XO TECH, LUNCH DUCHES
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

XIII ARROWS
w/ THE PUSH, SHAMBLE TOWN REBELS
MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

PSYCHIC REVIVAL
w/ CITY COUNSELOR, BUTTER BOYS, STONY WELLZ
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

POOLBOY
w/ HAR-DI-HAR, CON DAVISON
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

JORDAN CARR & THE BOYS Vinyl Release Show
w/ SUPPORTIVE PARENTS, BIRD STREETS
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

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PALACE THEATRE UP NEXT

FEB 05
INTERPOL
w/ SUNFLOWER BEAN

FEB 12
RAINBOW KITTEN SURPRISE
w/ MT. JOY

FEB 22
BIG HEAD TODD AND THE MONSTERS
w/ BLUE WATER HIGHWAY BAND

FEB 23
BEIRUT
w/ HELADO NEGRO

FEB 24
YOUNG THE GIANT MIRROR MASTER TOUR
w/ SURE SURE

MAR 09
THE REVIVALISTS
Take Good Care Tour

MAR 23
ST. PAUL & THE BROKEN BONES
w/ MICHAEL NAU (COTTON JONES)

FINE LINE UP NEXT

JOHN GRANT
w/ TWO MEDICINE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

GET TOGETHER #8: House For The Holidays ft. PAUL JOHNSON
w/ SPECIAL GUESTS
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

SNOW FLEX ZONE
w/ MIKE 2600, JUST NINE, ESPADA
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

THE BIG WU
Album Release Show
w/ MIKEL WRIGHT AND THE WRONGS
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29

Y2K: A '90S NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH YOU OUGHTA KNOW
w/ THE '90S PRESERVATION SOCIETY
MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

KONGOS 1929 Tour
w/ FITNESS
MONDAY, JANUARY 21

TURF CLUB UP NEXT

OLD SALT UNION
w/ THE COMMON GROUND COMPANY
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

ALL TOMORROW'S PETTY RESIDENCY AT THE TURF CLUB
w/ INVISIBLE BOY, ACTUAL WOLF (SOLO)
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

THE LAST REVEL
w/ JOSEPH HUBER
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

HOLD YOUR LADY TIGHT NIGHT: A COUNTRY MUSIC DANCE PARTY
w/ OLD SPAGHETTI WESTERN FACTORY
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

ALL TOMORROW'S PETTY RESIDENCY AT THE TURF CLUB
w/ UNDER VIOLET, DAVID HUCKFELT'S ALL TOMORROW'S TONY JOE WHITE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

HALLOWEEN, ALASKA LE CENTRE RELEASE SHOW
w/ AL SPARHAWK
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

A CHRIS STROUTH PRODUCTION SNAILDARTHA
w/ THE BAD COMPANIONS, DJ JAKE RUDH
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

DEAD MAN WINTER playing *Razor Pony* and *Careful I Think it's Loaded*
w/ GLITTERATI
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

AROUND TOWN

INGRID MICHAELSON TRIO presents: *Songs For The Season*
FITZGERALD THEATER
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

HALEY Record Release Show
w/ LOKI'S FOLLY
THE CEDAR
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

COMING SOON

FRI DEC 07
A DJ TRIBUTE TO THE PURPLE ONE AND THE KING OF POP
FEATURING DJ DAVE PAUL, DJ MARCO
FIRST AVENUE \$15/\$20 / 9PM DOORS / 18+

TUE DEC 11
RICHARD THOMPSON ELECTRIC TRIO
w/ LOGAN LEDGER
FIRST AVENUE \$25/\$30 DOS / 7PM DOORS / 18+

WED DEC 12
89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS
SHEILA E. FIRST AVENUE
\$45 / 7PM DOORS / 18+

FRI DEC 14
ATMOSPHERE
WITH deM atlas, THE LIONESS, DJ KEEZY
PALACE THEATRE \$30 / 7PM DOORS / 18+
(DEC. 15 SHOW SOLD OUT)

SAT DEC 15
MASON JENNINGS
WITH tiny deaths
FIRST AVENUE \$25/\$30 DOS / 7PM DOORS / 18+

A LIST

FRIDAY *A Very Die Hard Christmas* honors the holidays p. 25

SATURDAY The Union Depot offers a sugar rush at its annual Holiday Bake Sale p. 27

WEDNESDAY 12.5

HOLIDAY/THEATER

ELF THE MUSICAL

ORDWAY CENTER FOR
THE PERFORMING ARTS

Buddy, the guileless hero of *Elf*, is returning to lead the search for genuine yuletide mirth. Like the 2003 movie, this musical adaptation traces the adventures of an orphan who has been raised as one of Santa's elves in the North Pole. Upon learning of his true human nature, Buddy ventures to NYC in search of his birth family. The reunion proves far from euphoric, as Buddy's exuberance often comes across as derangement, even to the department store worker with whom he falls in love. The songs composed for *Elf*, by acclaimed duo Matthew Sklar and Chad Beguelin, are intrinsic to the whimsical design, lending heartfelt sentiment to the cleverly adapted book by Tony Award-winning Thomas Meehan and Bob Martin. Arriving at a time when social and cultural disenchantment seems to be running rampant, a dose of Buddy's optimistic energy should make for a potent Christmas tonic. 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays; 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. \$40-\$114. 345 Washington St., St. Paul; 651-224-4222. **Through December 30 —BRAD RICHASON**

COMEDY

SEAN PATTON

ACME COMEDY CO.

Sean Patton has performed comedy on four continents this year, and has learned a lot about other cultures. "Over here, people talk about how America is losing freedom of speech," he says. "Go spend a week in China where they actually don't have freedom of speech. We're not losing shit." He points out that he can repeatedly talk negatively about the president on the phone. "I don't fear suddenly being detained. In China, you can't talk negatively about [Chinese president] Xi Jinping. It's troublesome to do so. You're told you can't talk about



Morgan Thorson and Alan Sparkhawk fold dance and music together for *Public Love* at the Walker.

BOBBY ROGERS

Taiwan, Tibet, or Tiananmen Square—not even in casual conversation." One of the clubs Patton was scheduled to play in Shanghai was closed before he arrived. "The concept of improvisation is not allowed," he explains, "and in a comedy show there's a good chance of that happening. They want to approve everything you're going to talk about onstage." The exposure to so many other cultures has helped cement his approach to comedy. "I try and stay away from topics I know other comedians might go after, which is a lot," he notes. "My material comes through experiences and from places people aren't really looking." 18+. 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday;

10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. \$18. 708 N. First St., Minneapolis; 612-338-6393. **Through Saturday —P.F. WILSON**

THURSDAY 12.6

DANCE

MORGAN THORSON AND ALAN SPARKHAWK (LOW): PUBLIC LOVE

WALKER ART CENTER

Since relocating from New York to Minneapolis in 1992, dance maker Morgan Thorson has developed a rep for work that combines intellectual rigor, theatrical flair, and choreographic audacity. Thorson co-creates with

her dancers, gives them power and choice, and comes out of an open-ended process with works of formal beauty and architectural power. That's a rare achievement. For her second Walker commission, Thorson picks the brains of a mighty cadre of performers, including Jessica Cressey, Non Edwards, Sam Jonson, Alanna Morris-Van Tassel, Valerie Oliverio, and writer Allie Hankins. *Public Love* celebrates tactility—the reciprocity of touch and our need for it in these divisive times. A sound score by Alan Sparhawk of Low, combined with some pop songs and plenty of sculptural elements and visual surprises, should make this production a love fest and a half. 8 p.m. Thursday

THURSDAY

COMEDY

FINESSE MITCHELL

RICK BRONSON'S
HOUSE OF COMEDY

"If you haven't been to an adult comedy show in a while, this is one you don't want to miss," says comedian Finesse Mitchell. Probably best known as a former cast member of *Saturday Night Live*, Mitchell started comedy late, at least by his reckoning. He was 28 and selling insurance during the day. "I guess there's no perfect time to start, but if you're really going to be good," he says, "you should probably start when you're 18. That gives you more time to do what you want to do." Mitchell made up a lot of ground, however, being cast on *SNL* after just five years in standup. In addition to touring, he also acts steadily and works on his other passion: being, as he describes it, "the dopest dad in the world." How does he accomplish that? "You've got to do more listening than talking," he explains. "You've got to be present and engaging." And, of course, you have to be funny. "You have to find some sort of funny in you to get your kids laughing. There's nothing like making your kids laugh and them thinking you're the funniest person on Earth. They become your friends, they trust you, and that's how you become the dopest dad in America." 16+. 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 9:45 p.m. Friday; 7 and 9:30 p.m. Saturday. \$16-\$23. 408 E. Broadway, Mall of America, Bloomington; 952-858-8558.

Through Saturday —P.F. WILSON



COURTESY PHOTO

through Saturday. \$28. 725 Vineland Place, Minneapolis; 612-375-7600.

Through Saturday —LINDA SHAPIRO

BOOZE

CITY PAGES COCKTAILIAN 2018

THE DEPOT RENAISSANCE
MINNEAPOLIS HOTEL

This week, City Pages' Cocktailian returns to the Depot in downtown Minneapolis for a booze-fueled evening of hard liquor from local distilleries and artisans. On your adult-beverage voyage you'll be able to sample everything under the sun (vodka! gin! whiskey!)—though you probably won't want to. This event is all about choosing your favorites and pacing yourself. Some booths will be mixing drinks, others will serve pours neat, and some will have both options. Around 20 distilleries will be on hand, including Vikre, Bent, 10,000 Drops, Lawless, and Loon Liquors. Makers of things that showcase booze, including Bittercube bitters, will also be on hand. Grab snacks from Red Stag, Pat's Tap, the Bird, Pinstripes, and Kyatchi, and enjoy tunes from Zacc Harris. VIP tickets score you early admission at 6 p.m. Find more info at cocktailian.citypages.com. 21+. 7 to 10 p.m. \$30/\$35 at the door (if available); \$50/\$55 VIP. 225 Third Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-375-1700. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

PERFORMANCE

WICKED WENCHES: STRIP WARS HOLIDAY SPECIAL

THE MINNSKY THEATER

The *Star Wars Holiday Special* is so notorious that there's a live-action version onstage this season. For those unfamiliar with the trainwreck: The program, which aired one time only in 1978, follows Chewbacca's family as they prepare to celebrate Life Day. Will the Empire ruin the family holiday? Will Chewie and Han Solo make it home in time to save the day? Why is Bea Arthur here? While we don't anticipate any *Golden Girls* cameos from the Wicked Wenchies at Minnsky Theater, we do expect some bombastic musical numbers, sexy wookies, and plenty of holiday camp. 7:30 p.m. Fridays through Saturdays, plus Thursday, December 6; 1:30 p.m. Sunday, plus Saturday December 15. \$15-\$30. 1517 Central Ave. N.E., Minneapolis. **Through December 15 —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

DANCE

WHO BROUGHT THE HUMBUG?

THE LAB THEATER

The irrepressible, effervescent, indubitably creative Ricci Milan is back on the boards, this time with his own

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25 ►

JUST ANNOUNCED

MON
MAR
04

89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS
JAMES BLAKE
PALACE THEATRE \$43.50+ / 7PM DOORS / 18+

FRI
MAR
29

89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS
JENNY LEWIS
On The Line Tour 2019
PALACE THEATRE \$30+ / 7PM DOORS / 18+

MON
APR
08

SPIRITUALIZED
FITZGERALD THEATER \$25+ / 7PM DOORS / ALL AGES

WED
MAY
01 &
THU
MAY
02

89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS
NEKO CASE
w/ SHANNON SHAW (of Shannon and The Clams)
FITZGERALD THEATER
\$50 / 7PM DOORS / ALL AGES

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VIRTUAL RIOT W/ JVST SAY YES & HI I'M GHOST DEC 07	PEGBBOARD NERDS W/ AUS DEC 08	ILL.GATES & STYLUST DEC 13	BENZI DEC 14
SHLUMP W/ CONRANK DEC 15	DODGE & FUSKI DEC 20	CHAMPAGNE DRIP W/ SUMTHIN SUMTHIN DEC 22	LEKTRIQUE DEC 27
NIGHTBASS W/ AC SLATER & MANY MORE DEC 28	ARIUS DEC 29	NYE 2019 FT. TROYBOI & MORE! DEC 31	OOKAY W/ BONNIE X CLYDE JAN 11
AMIGO THE DEVIL JAN 16	TWO FRIENDS JAN 18	ANTISERUM & DEFINITIVE JAN 19	HIGH ON FIRE JAN 23
DOWNLINK W/ AL ROSS JAN 25	SAID THE SKY JAN 26	12TH PLANET SWAMPLEX TOUR FEB 07	MARTY FRIEDMAN FEB 09
BOOMBOX CARTEL FEB 15	LUCA LUSH W/ MONTELL2099 FEB 16	SAYMYNAME MERCILESS TOUR FEB 21	SPACE JESUS TEMPLE OF NOOM TOUR FEB 23
UNO THE ACTIVIST THE SHYNE TOUR FEB 23	MATOMA HOLY MOLY! TOUR FEB 28	NOTHING MORE W/ OF MICE & MEN + MORE MAR 02	DECIBEL MAGAZINE TOUR W/ CANNIBAL CORPSE & MORE MAR 03
PSYMBIONIC W/ THELEM MAR 08	THE BLACK QUEEN W/ UNIFORM & SRSQ MAR 17	ZOMBOY W/ SPACE LACES, BADKLAAT, & MORE MAR 30	HYPOCRISY W/ FLESHGOD APOCALYPSE + MORE APR 06
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HALE EKINCI

CONTINUED FROM THURSDAY ►

show. The dancer and choreographer, who you may know from the wayback days of 10FootFive and more recently with Rhythmic Circus, wants everyone to “tap” into the holiday spirit with this high-energy, interactive, all-ages show. Classic and original holiday songs, wild and wicked tap dancing, a seven-piece horn band, a crazy-cool beatbox sensation, Broadway-style Minneapolis funk—the holidays couldn’t be jazzier or more fun when Milan’s directing the action. This show will get you happy in a heartbeat. 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays; 1:30 p.m. Saturdays; 4 p.m. Sundays. \$30-\$35; \$40-\$45 VIP. 700 N. First St., Minneapolis; 612-333-7977. **Through December 16** —CAMILLE LEFEVRE

ARTS

HOLIDAY POP-UP MARKETS

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

We’re in the thick of it now, with holiday markets popping up like Starbucks in the ‘90s. The Queer Bizarre at Insight Brewery (2821 E. Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis) will feature giftables from a variety of LGBTQ artists. There will also be beer and soda while you do some shopping on Thursday from 5 to 10 p.m. Raging Art On is back this week at Gamut Gallery (717 S. 10th St., Minneapolis) with an ongoing sale sure to please artsy types. Thursdays through Saturdays, from 1 to 7 p.m. through December 22, the gallery will be packed

with the work of 50 or so artists. Pieces will be hung floor to ceiling, with booths selling jewelry, pottery, and other items. The Holiday Emporium at Geek Partnership Society (1121 Jackson St. NE, Ste 106, Minneapolis) will host an event with a family-friendly CON vibe, offering gloriously nerdy items, snacks, and visits from Santa. The event is on Saturday, and runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This weekend, the always epic Holiday No Coast Craft-o-Rama returns to Midtown Global Market (920 E. Lake St., Minneapolis) with gig posters, beauty products, handmade toys, and bitchy Christmas cards (the best kind) from 3 to 8 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. If you’re looking for local markets that will also feature beer, be sure to check out happenings at Sisyphus Brewing (noon to 5 p.m. Saturday at 712 Ontario Ave. W., Minneapolis), Tattersall (noon to 6 p.m. Saturday at 1620 Central Ave. NE # 150, Minneapolis), and Modist (noon to 5 p.m. Sunday at 505 N. Third St., Minneapolis). —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

FRIDAY 12.7

ART/GALLERY

OPEN DOOR 14:
JURIED EXHIBITION

ROSALUX GALLERY

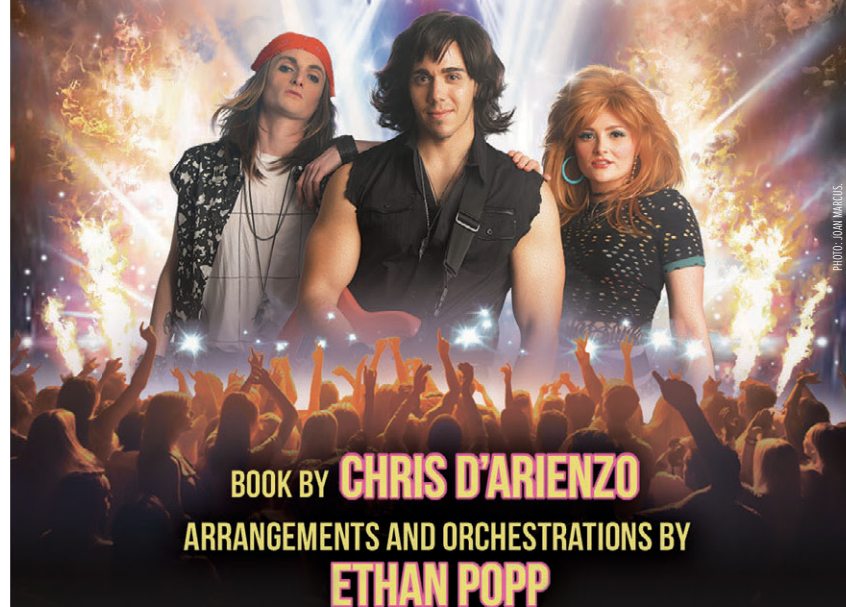
Nicole Soukup, who coordinates the Minnesota Artist Exhibition Project at Mia, curates this year’s “Open

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26 ►

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A-LIST



Klingons get into the holiday spirit while using a bat'leth, a traditional weapon.

COURTESY PHOTO

CONTINUED FROM FRIDAY ►

Door 14" at Rosalux. At Mia, Soukup not only oversees the MAEP program, but has assisted big shows like "More Real? Art in the Age of Truthiness," "The Sports Show MN," and "Sacred." She also helped organize the citywide Guerrilla Girls' Twin Cities takeover in 2016. "Open Door" draws artists from all over the country; this year the show includes Chicago-based Turkish interdisciplinary artist Hale Ekinci and Iowa-based artist Noah Doely, who uses sculpture, photography, and video. There are plenty of Minnesota artists as well, including Lisa Bergh, Justine Di Fiore, Emmett Ramstad, and Christopher Harrison. There will be an opening reception from 7 to 10 p.m. Friday, December 7. 1400 Van Buren St. NE #195, Minneapolis. **Through December 30 —SHEILA REGAN**

THEATER

A VERY DIE HARD CHRISTMAS

BRYANT-LAKE BOWL THEATER

Explosions, blood, bad guys, and yuletide wishes will be pouring out of Bryant-Lake Bowl this December, as *A Very Die Hard Christmas* returns to the stage. The brainchild of Twin Cities theater veteran Josh Carson, this show combines the badass story of John McClane, an off-duty cop turned action-movie icon, with the warmth and charm of some of your favorite Christmas TV specials. Each year, Carson adds and changes material to keep up with current events and pop culture, but he doesn't compromise on

the comedy, catchphrases, or holiday cheer that has made the production a staple of BLB during the holidays. Best of all, each show brings in a surprise guest to play the role of Santa Claus. Past cameos have included athletes, actors, musicians, and even former mayor Betsy Hodges. Come for the fake blood splatter, stay for the spirit of the holidays. Yippee ki-yay, Father Christmas. 10 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays. \$15/\$18. 810 W. Lake St., Minneapolis; 612-825-3737. **Through December 22 —PATRICK STRAIT**

THEATER

A KLINGON CHRISTMAS CAROL

MOUNDS THEATRE

A stage production featuring Klingons probably doesn't spring to mind when you think of holiday traditions. However, *A Klingon Christmas Carol* has been crushing expectations for many years now. An annual offering at Mounds Theatre, this production teaches the true meaning of SQuja', a story of courage and honor (and bloodshed, we're talking about Klingons here) on the eve of the Long Night. This is a lesson that transcends language and culture, as you will be able to follow the play despite it being presented entirely in the Klingon language (rest assured, there will also be English supertitles). While this tale is dark and cold and a little bit like a fairy tale from another era, in the end the true spirit of the holidays shines through and warms hearts. 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, Monday, December 10, and Thursdays starting December 20; 4:30 p.m.

December 23. \$18-\$35. 1029 Hudson Rd., St. Paul; 651-772-2253. **Through December 29** —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

DANCE

NUTCRACKER (NOT SO) SUITE

THE COWLES CENTER FOR DANCE & THE PERFORMING ARTS

There will be glitter and grime at this naughty take on the *Nutcracker*. In this production, originally created by Myron Johnson in 1993 for Ballet of the Dolls, Marie is celebrating Christmas in 1960s NYC. Instead of the eponymous gift, she receives Barbie and Ken dolls. Things get rowdy when they spring to life, whisking Maria away for an adventure that includes run-ins with beatniks, brides, and a Rat Queen, all set to pop tunes, rock 'n' roll, and a bit of Tchaikovsky's original score. Bradley Greenwald reprises his Mama Flo, Maria's socialite aunt, and Steven Epp takes on the Uncle/Drosselmeyer role. 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays. \$40-\$45. 528 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-206-3636. **Through December 22** —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

SATURDAY 12.8

ART/MUSEUM

ELIZABETH PRICE

WALKER ART CENTER

Neckties are loaded with symbolism. Among their connotations: social rank or status, coming of age, a celebration of color or mood, a sign of professionalism or politics, an outward expression of the phallus. Kohl is an adornment originated by the ancient Egyptians. All of that, and more, inform the large-scale moving images London-based artist Elizabeth Price has created for the Walker Art Center galleries. In her first U.S. museum commission, Price offers two works: *FELT TIP* and *KOHL*. In the first, she layers necktie imagery sourced from photography, animation, and motion graphics to examine gender and



GETTY

SATURDAY

FOOD

2018 HOLIDAY BAKE SALE

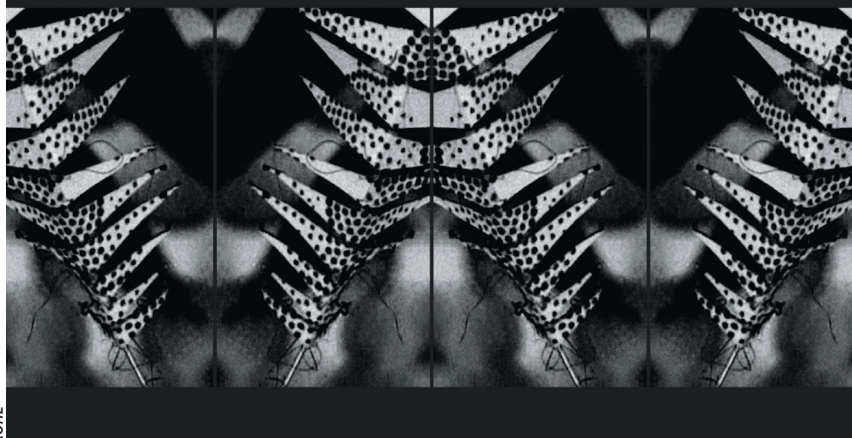
UNION DEPOT

It's not just booze we turn to for comfort; sugar also helps us get through the holidays. This weekend, the Union Depot will make it easier for you to score some of the sweet stuff at their annual bake sale. Sample and purchase delicious edibles from bakeries and businesses like Heavenly Treats, Made-moiselle Miel, Nikkolette's Macarons, North Mallow, Nothing Bundt Cakes, Potter's Pasties, St. Croix Chocolate Co., and the Buttered Tin, among many others. Between doses of sugar you'll find market vendors peddling wares, be they soap, salsa, granola, or many other options. Workshops include food and drink pairing sessions, and there's a chance you'll win something super sweet at the cakewalk. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free. 214 E. Fourth St., St. Paul; 651-202-2700.

—JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

workplace. In *KOHL*, she integrates video from four fictional characters discussing the cosmetic and the material, and coal as a source of energy and fuel. Together, the works present a singular perspective on the body, dress, and gender. 1750 Hennepin Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-375-7600. **Through February 23, 2020** —CAMILLE LEFEVRE

Elizabeth Price's moving images at the Walker



KOHL

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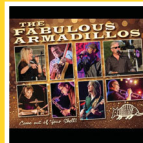
SAT, DEC 29



**GEAR
DADDIES**
with guest
**THE BELFAST
COWBOYS**

Doors 7:30pm • Music 8:30pm • 21+

MON, DEC 31

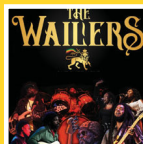


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EVE
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with guest **BAD GIRLFRIENDS**

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FRI, FEB 1



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with guest
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UPCOMING IN 2019:

FEB 9..... FIREHOUSE and SWEET
MARCH 2..... LED ZEPPELIN 2:
THE LIVE EXPERIENCE
MARCH 16..... QUEENSRÛCHE
with guest **FATES WARNING**
MARCH 30..... TOMMY CASTRO
AND THE PAINKILLERS
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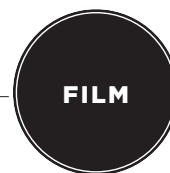
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BACK IN THE U.S.S.R

Creed II keeps the *Rocky* movie formula fresh



Sylvester Stallone and Michael B. Jordan are back in the ring.

WARNER BROS.

BY TONY LIBERA

Even if the first *Rocky* movie was your last *Rocky* movie, you'll know the broader strokes of *Creed II* before heading into the theater. The entire series more or less rehashes the same plot over and over again, with a predictability that would wreck any other franchise. Yet somehow, over 40 years later, the *Rocky* formula continues to work.

That's not to say every installment is a sublime work of art. *Rocky V* is an unmitigated shitshow. Yet each episode does what it sets out to do with some degree of effectiveness. You can always count on a *Rocky* movie to be fun and sometimes even great.

Creed ended with our hero, Adonis Creed (Michael B. Jordan), going the distance with the world champion and losing by split decision, just like his mentor Rocky Balboa (Sylvester Stallone) did back in 1976. Unlike *Rocky II*, however, the second *Creed* movie opens with Adonis winning the WBC World Heavyweight Championship. This catalyzes the appearance of *Creed II*'s true antagonists, *Rocky IV*'s Ivan Drago (Dolph Lundgren) and his son Viktor (Florian Munteanu), who have been living

a spartan lifestyle since Rocky defeated Ivan back in the '80s.

A promoter named Buddy Marcelle (Russell Hornsby) sees potential in a *Creed*/Drago showdown and begins to pull Adonis' strings. It isn't hard to manipulate the young champ into a fight; after all, it was Ivan who killed his father, Apollo Creed (Carl Weathers), in what was supposed to be an exhibition match. Rocky advises against the fight, but of course, Adonis doesn't listen. Again, it's not hard to guess what comes next: hubris, a defeat, an epic training montage, a bloody grand finale in Russia.

The first *Creed* owed a lot of its success to Ryan Coogler, and with the wunderkind writer-director otherwise engaged in a little film called *Black Panther*, there was some question as to whether *Creed II* could capture the same magic as its predecessor. It doesn't quite get there, but new director Steven Caple Jr. is no slouch, putting his own touches on the saga while keeping things consistent. Like its predecessors, *Creed II* takes a new look at the pugilistic hero's journey, tweaks it just enough to find some new terrain, and ultimately builds to an enjoyable, tried-and-true climax.

Within the larger framework there's also a strong series of paternal subplots.

CREED II

directed by Steven Caple Jr.
area theaters, now showing

Creed II mirrors *Rocky II* with an unexpected pregnancy, and though it's a derivative plot point, it ties together all three families (Balboa, Creed, Drago) and helps each story achieve a nice resolution. Part of me wanted to see Adonis say, "You know what, my dad was murdered in the boxing ring. I almost got murdered by Viktor in the first fight. There are more important things than boxing, and I want to be here for my child," before turning and walking away. Of course, it's a *Rocky* movie, not an existential indie drama, so that wasn't going to happen, but it would have been a memorable twist.

With *Creed II* we've got another solid entry into the Rockyverse, and a good feeling going into the inevitable *Creed III*. Since the movie's release, Stallone all but flat-out stated that this will be the last appearance of Rocky Balboa. It's hard to take Sly at his word given his history with both Rocky and Rambo—but if this is the end, we do get a nice sense of closure for a character that truly affected American culture.

Either way, it's Creed's time now. **CP**

THE WICKHAMS

Jungle Theater returns to Jane Austen's charming world



RICH RYAN

BY JAY GABLER

Jane Austen's characters often seem to be looking for security: a loving marriage, a sustainable income, a comfortable home. The genius of Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon, in exploring Austen's world, is to explicitly articulate what the books more elliptically imply: For these 19th-century women, beyond that security lay the more fundamental dream of liberty.

Gunderson previously partnered with Melcon on *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*. That 2016 *Pride and Prejudice* sequel centered on Mary, the bookish Bennet sister. After last year's rapturously received production of that play, the Jungle Theater has co-commissioned what director Christina Baldwin calls a "side-quel."

The Wickhams takes place simultaneously with *Miss Bennet*, on a lower level of the vast mansion where Elizabeth (Sun Mee Chomet) has settled down in wedded bliss with Mr. Darcy (James Rodríguez). That puts us in the servants' kitchen (expansively rendered by set designer Chelsea M. Warren), where we meet three members of the Pemberley staff and explore the marriage of the loquacious Lydia Wickham, née Bennet (Kelsey Didion).

The infamous George Wickham (Nate Cheeseman) is unseen in *Miss Bennet*, and in *The Wickhams* we learn why. He hopes that housekeeper Mrs. Reynolds (a priceless Angela Timberman), who was fond of him as a boy, will help him reconcile with his nemesis Darcy. Servants Brian (Jesse LaVercombe) and the newly hired

Cassie (Roshni Desai) are skeptical, despite Wickham's rakish charm.

This is a darker story than *Miss Bennet*, to the point where its feel-good ending seems almost forced. Lydia has to confront some uncomfortable facts about her husband, while Wickham's abuses illustrate the implications of a rigid gender hierarchy that still holds much force today.

Even so, there's plenty of joy to be had in this Georgian world. The playwrights have a knack for zesty dialogue, but just as important is the room they leave for telling moments that fill their frames. Like *Miss Bennet*, *The Wickhams* gallops along at the fast pace of a big family gathering while carefully preserving the hesitations, the reverses, and the silences that sometimes say more than words.

This is world-class theatrical art, exceptional for the warmth of its execution and

THE WICKHAMS

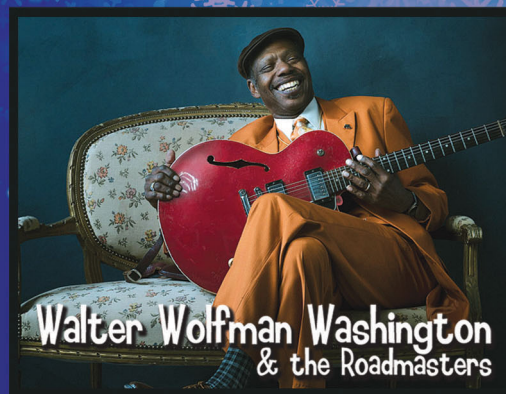
Jungle Theater
2951 Lyndale Ave. S.,
Minneapolis, 612-822-7063;
through December 30

the breadth of its ambition—even if it falls short of what it could have been. The split focus between

the gentry and their servants yields insights, but also prevents any individual character from being developed as thoroughly as Mary was in *Miss Bennet*. Gestures at heretofore unknown complexities in Wickham's character, and critiques of the household's class dynamic, are largely abandoned for a conclusion that leaves us still feeling warm and fuzzy about this legendary literary family. It is, after all, Christmas. **CP**

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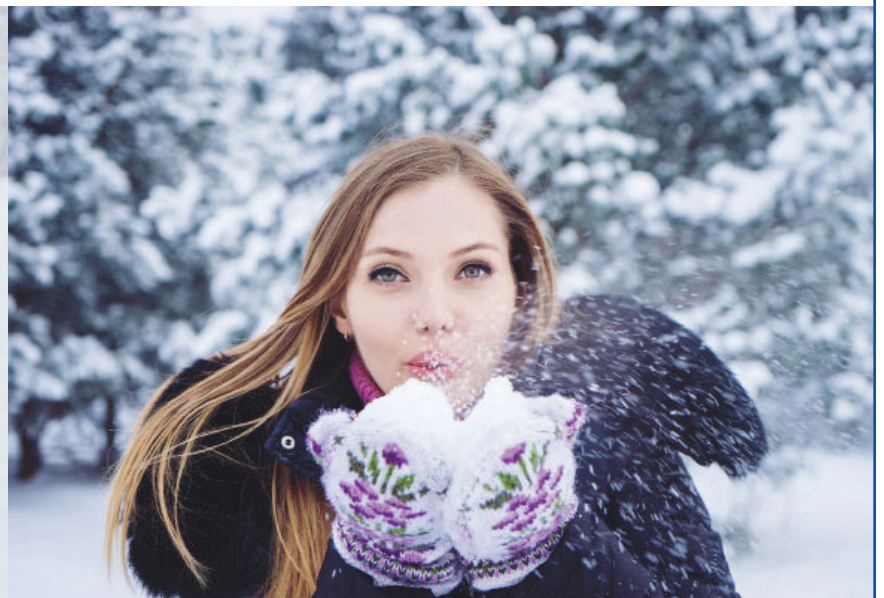


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STREET *Style*

CATCH A BODY An art exhibit at Loring Pasta Bar on November 28. **BY SAMSON MELKAMU**



KAMILLA LOVE

25, MUSICIAN

What are you wearing?

The sheer jacket, leather cowboy hat, and see-through boots are thrifted, dress is Prada.

Describe your style:

Feminine, unique, effortless, fluid.

How does your style combat established norms in gender and sexuality?

My style allows people to see me for who I really am and gain a better understanding of my character. I love seeing people react to my *je ne sais quoi*.



LARON "SAINT" BRANT

30, MUSICIAN/STORE OWNER

What are you wearing?

Denim jacket and hat by H&M, extended knitted pocket shirt from Zara, Yves Saint Laurent jeans, Maison Margiela sneakers.

Describe your style:

High-low streetwear.

Best style advice?

Find the deals and shop within your means; you can look good on any budget.



DESTINY DAVIS

25, ARTIST/CURATOR

What are you wearing?

Hair by me, pink dress and metallic heels from a thrift store in Detroit.

Describe your style:

If Lil' Kim, Janet Jackson, and Grace Jones had a love child.

How does your style combat established norms in gender and sexuality?

I am fearless and see no boundaries. Every risk is an expression and a protest that the body is more than the eye can see, it's a feeling and needs to be free.



CHRISTIAN BALDEN

29, NONPROFIT FUNDRAISER

What are you wearing?

Rock candy earrings from Claire's, necklace from Nordstrom, red gown from Akira, and Vince Camuto velvet heels.

Describe your style:

Sickening, vibrant, genderless, and sexually suggestive every damn day.

How does your style combat established norms in gender and sexuality?

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Friday, Dec. 14 // 8 pm
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CINEMA

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35mm Presentation

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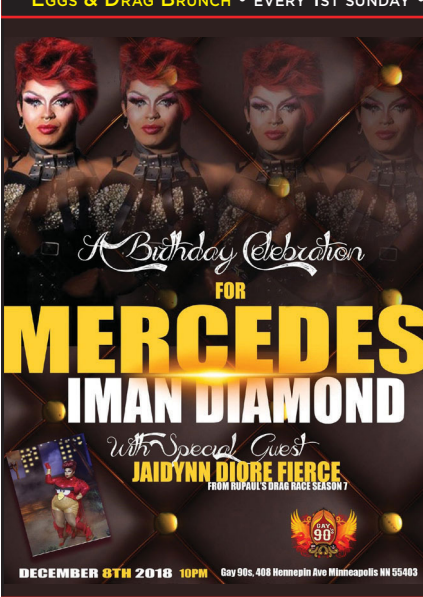
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TONY NELSON

PLEDGING HIS TIME

Martin Devaney looks back and inward on his personal new album, *Plaid on Plaid*

BY ERIK THOMPSON

I'm trying to explain to anyone who is listening where I've been over the last five years," says Martin Devaney. "And this is it."

"It" is *Plaid on Plaid*, the 38-year-old St. Paul singer-songwriter's first new record since 2013. Devaney had to work through some issues in that time, and the album's 10 revealing, rocking songs reflect that personal journey and painful self-reflection.

"I went through probably the lowest stretch of my life a few years back," Devaney says. "Loads of existential crises, like 'What am I doing with myself?' And feeling like I wasn't reaching my supposed potential. I was a lost soul for a bit, even if I had a good game face. Of course, in the midst of this, I met Maggie [now his wife], and her kindness and love kind of refocused me and set me on a path with some more purpose."

You can hear the optimism that new love and a better mindset typically bring on side B of the album, in songs like "About My Girl" and "Give Me Hope." Side A, though, is a look back at mistakes made along the way and regrets accrued.

"You start here, and you end up there. It's not necessarily in chronological order, by any means. But it's all there," says Devaney. "These are the songs that best represent those five years."

The album, Devaney's seventh full-length, has a loose, late-night sound, a testament to the camaraderie of the band he assembled: Ryan Plewacki, Sean McPherson, Tony Zaccardi, Adam Lamoreaux, Tim Martin, and Ryan Otte. They're not just longtime collaborators, they're friends.

"At this point in the game, having done this for as long as we have, it's a little bit like a trust fall type of thing," Devaney says.

"I know that I can bring these guys a tune that I wrote on an acoustic guitar at my coffee table, and we start to work through an arrangement and I can trust them implicitly to react to it. Their instincts are such that after a couple of takes, I'm like, 'Yep. That's what I heard in my head.' And, in some cases, not what I heard, which is even better."

Devaney has consistently been writing songs since his last record, even if he didn't think what he was writing was up to snuff. "I was lost for a couple years, and I didn't push myself the way that I used to," he says. "I won't say that I got lazy, because I'm always writing, but I think I wrote a lot of stuff that I just didn't care for. I did a lot of writing, and I did a lot of trashing of that writing."

But rather than discard that material, Devaney went back through his notebooks and journals, salvaging unused phrases, verses, and melodies to repurpose for some of the songs on *Plaid on Plaid*—he jokingly refers to the process as "stealing from myself." This gives the material a lived-in vibe while also providing insight into Devaney's current mindset, which makes for a fluid mix of past and present.

Even when he wasn't recording, Devaney remained a stalwart live performer on Twin Cities stages. "Live music is still king to me," he says. "Although it's getting harder and harder to convince people that it's where their hard-earned money should be spent. We go out to the movies for 10 bucks—spend \$10 to see *A Star Is Born*. Those same people will be reluctant to spend \$10 to see three bands. How do we go forward with that? Well, I don't know anything to do except keep playing the songs. Write songs, play 'em, and get out in front of people and do it."

Plaid on Plaid is a reintroduction of sorts for Devaney, a way to reconnect with the fans who have stuck with him from the start, while also introducing him to a new audience. "The whole idea is to connect with people. That's why we do this," Devaney says. "I'm always interested in what does connect and what doesn't. I'm ever curious. I believe in it as my craft. I believe it's my trade, in the same way that someone's a carpenter. This is what I do. And I'm always fascinated by it. It's what makes me seek out new music, or dig deeper into the catalogues of my heroes. As a person who can get discouraged easily, I'm encouraged by the fact that I always wake up and want to keep doing it."

Devaney is a tireless cheerleader for St. Paul, a city that he thinks unfairly gets a

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MUSIC

bad rap. But though he's affectionately referred to as St. Paul's "Night Mayor," Devaney is quick to deflect that label, saying he represents both sides of the river. "I've always been of the Twin Cities," he says. "I came up in Dinkytown and played my first show there. I'm a proud St. Paul guy for life, and I accept my unofficial title. But I came up playing more in Minneapolis than in St. Paul. I get a little saddled with the divide, but there is no divide. I'm of the Twin Cities, let it be known."

While some of the new material reflects on darker moments from Devaney's past, the record ends on an optimistic note with "Give Me Hope," a break from his usual somber, introspective style. Devaney quickly agrees with a laugh that the song is "not my normal deal."

"Give Me Hope" is the last song on the record, and it is the last song written for the record, which I think is telling, for sure," he says. "I didn't give it much thought until it came time to sequence the record, but it made perfect sense. I want to go out on that note, for now. I'll check back in in a couple of years, but this is where we're at right now. I wanted it to be like a semi-hopeful Tom Petty song, to go out on an up note."

"When you're a songwriter, nobody wants to hear how happy you are," he adds. "That's not why we put records on, right? But there's nothing wrong with hearing that somebody's doing OK. And maybe it's a reminder that, hey, I can feel this way too. I struggle with my demons and my low points, but being able to write a song like that was a reminder that I can feel this way. I don't always. I don't maybe even often. But I can. And I want to. And maybe there's a way to find that."

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♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19): When I write a horoscope for you, I focus on one or two questions because I don't have room to cover every single aspect of your life. The theme I've chosen this time may seem a bit impractical, but if you take it to heart, I guarantee you it will have practical benefits. It comes from Italian author Umberto Eco. He wrote, "Perhaps the mission of those who love humanity is to make people laugh at the truth, to make truth laugh, because the only truth lies in learning to free ourselves from insane passion for the truth." I swear to you, Aries, that if you laugh at the truth and make the truth laugh in the coming days, you will be guided to do all the right and necessary things.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You have a cosmic mandate and a poetic license to stir up far more erotic fantasies than usual. It'll be healthy for you to unleash many new thoughts about sexual experiments that would be fun to try and novel feelings you'd like to explore and people whose naked flesh you'd be interested to experience sliding and gliding against yours. But please note that the cosmic mandate and poetic license do not necessarily extend to you acting out your fantasies. The important thing is to let your imagination run wild. That will catalyze a psychic healing you didn't even realize you needed.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In my continuing efforts to help you want what you need and need what you want, I've collected four wise quotes that address your looming opportunities. 1. "What are you willing to give up, in order to become who you really need to be?" –author Elizabeth Gilbert 2. "Leave the door open for the unknown, the door into the dark. That's where the most important things come from." –Rebecca Solnit 3. "You enter the extraordinary by way of the ordinary." –Frederick Buechner 4. "Happiness is like a butterfly which, when pursued, is always beyond our grasp, but, if you will sit down quietly, may alight upon you." –Nathaniel Hawthorne

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22): I've called on author Robert Heinlein to provide your horoscope. According to my astrological analysis, his insights are exactly what you need to focus on right now. "Do not confuse 'duty' with what other people expect of you," he wrote. "They are utterly different. Duty is a debt you owe to yourself to fulfill obligations you have assumed voluntarily. Paying that debt can entail anything from years of patient work to instant willingness to die. Difficult it may be, but the reward is self-respect. But there is no reward at all for doing what other people expect of you, and to do so is not merely difficult, but impossible."

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): What does "beauty" mean to you? What sights, sounds, images, qualities, thoughts, and behavior do you regard as beautiful? Whatever your answers might be to those questions right now, I suggest you expand and deepen your definitions in the coming weeks. You're at a perfect pivot point to invite more gorgeous, lyrical grace into your life; to seek out more elegance and charm and artistry; to cultivate more alluring, delightful magic.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You know the expiration dates that appear on the labels of the prescription drugs you buy? They don't mean that the drugs lose their potency after that date. In fact, most drugs are still quite effective for at least another 10 years. Let's use this fact as a metaphor for a certain resource or influence in your life that you fear is used up or defunct. I'm guessing it still has a lot to offer you, although you will have to shift your thinking in order to make its reserves fully available.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Libran rapper Eminem is renowned for his verbal skill. It may be best exemplified in his song "Rap God," in which he delivers 1,560 words in six minutes and four seconds, or 4.28 words per second. In one stretch, he crams in 97 words in 15 seconds, achieving a pace of 6.5 words per second. I suspect that in the coming weeks, you will also be unusually adept at using words, although your forte will be potent profundity rather than sheer speed. I encourage you to prepare by making a list of the situations where your enhanced powers of persuasion will be most useful.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In May of 1883, the newly built Brooklyn Bridge opened for traffic. Spanning the East River to link Manhattan and Brooklyn, it was the longest suspension bridge in the world. But almost immediately people spread rumors that it was unstable. There was a growing fear that it might even crumble and fall. That's when charismatic showman P.T. Barnum stepped in. He arranged to march 21 elephants across the bridge. There was no collapse, and so the rumors quickly died. I regard the coming weeks as a time when you should take inspiration from Barnum. Provide proof that will dispel gossipy doubt. Drive away superstitious fear with dramatic gestures. Demonstrate how strong and viable your improvements really are.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Robert Louis Stevenson published his gothic novel *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* in 1886. It was a bestseller, and quickly got turned into a theatrical production. In the ensuing 132 years, there have been well over a hundred further adaptations of the story into film and stage productions. Here's the funny thing about this influential work: Stevenson wrote it fast. It took him three feverish days to get the gist of it, and just another six weeks to revise. Some biographers say he was high on drugs during the initial burst, perhaps cocaine. I suspect you could also produce some robust and interesting creation in the coming weeks, Sagittarius—and you won't even need cocaine to fuel you.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A blogger on Tumblr named Ffshh composed a set of guidelines that I think will be apt and useful for you to draw on in the coming weeks. Please study these suggestions and adapt them for your healing process. "Draw stick figures. Sing off-key. Write bad poems. Sew ugly clothes. Run slowly. Flirt clumsily. Play video games on 'easy.' OK? You do not need to be good at something to enjoy it. Sometimes talent is overrated. Do things you like doing just because you like doing them. It's OK to suck."

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Aquarian athlete Michael Jordan is the greatest basketball player who ever lived. He was also the first to become a billionaire. But when he was growing up, he didn't foresee the glory that awaited him. For example, in high school he took a home economics class so as to acquire cooking abilities. Why? He imagined that as an adult he might have to prepare all of his own meals. His ears were so huge and ungainly, he reasoned, that no woman would want to be his wife. So the bad news was that he suffered from a delusion. The good news was that because of his delusion, he learned a useful skill. I foresee a similar progression for you, Aquarius. Something you did that was motivated by misguided or irrelevant ideas may yield positive results.

♊ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): The Bible does not say that Mary Magdalene was a prostitute or even a "sinner." There's no mention of her sexual proclivities at all. Delusional ideas about her arose in the Middle Ages, instigated by priests who confused her with other women in the Bible. The truth is that the Bible names her as a key ally to Christ, and the crucial witness to his resurrection. Fortunately, a number of scholars and church leaders have in recent years been working to correct her reputation. I invite you to be motivated and inspired by this transformation as you take steps to adjust and polish your own image during the coming weeks. It's time to get your public and private selves into closer alignment.

CROSSWORD

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55								56						
57								58						
59								60						

O CHRISTMAS TREE

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

Across

- 1 Many sherpas
- 8 Wheel and deal
- 15 Strange things
- 16 Classic hairy costume
- Ted Williams or Yogi Berra, e.g.

Down

- 1 Innovator's goal
- 2 Alimony recipient
- 3 First item on the agenda
- 4 Working hard
- 5 Facebook ____ (streaming service)
- 6 Chilling container
- 7 Exams with perfect scores of 1600
- 8 NYSNC* singer Joey
- 9 Bygone toothpaste brand
- 10 Soft ball company
- 11 Bubbly wine name
- 12 Jazz pianist Vince whose trio did the music for "A Charlie Brown Christmas"
- 13 Flag carrying soccer officials
- 14 Some aliens
- 20 Dinner freebie
- 24 Isr.'s neighbor
- 26 Off
- 27 "Missed that"
- 28 Mother clucker
- 29 Snoozefest

- 30 Joint on the foot
- 32 Out of gas
- 33 Clean with a cloth
- 34 Put out of the way of
- 35 "My thoughts are ..."
- 36 Catered to?
- 37 Pretoria's land: Abbr.
- 40 Kind of salad
- 42 Settle beforehand
- 43 Prepared without meat or milk
- 44 Stockholm natives
- 46 Tired
- 49 Stir up
- 50 Programming section
- 51 Christmas tree topper
- 52 Buffalo's coast
- 53 Office part
- 54 Hockey legend Gordie
- 55 Mornings, briefly

Last Week's Answer

S	H	A	W		B	I	G	D	O	G		C	B	S
H	E	R	O		O	N	E	I	D	A		A	A	H
E	L	A	N		H	A	S	T	A		A	V	I	S
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O	N	E		O	C	E	L	O	T		V	I	A	L
W	E	D		N	O	N	E	W	S		A	N	N	A

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Why does it hurt when I ejaculate?

I'm a 59-year-old man in good health. For basically my whole adult life, I've had this problem during intercourse with a woman of (1) being very quick to come and (2) having a too intense "cringey" sensation when I come. This has led to often going soft at the prospect of intercourse. This too-intense feeling makes me stop moving when I come, which is not satisfying at all. It doesn't happen with hand jobs or oral sex—they feel fine and good. Is this a known phenomenon? And what can I do to get to a point where I can enjoy intercourse? This seriously messes up my enjoyment of sex and my confidence with women. One time, and only one time (out of many with a particular girlfriend), I had intercourse and it felt fine when I came, still thrusting, so I know it's possible. I have been practicing with a Fleshlight, but it's still painfully "cringey" when I come. It is not fun and rather depressing.

HE ALWAYS REALLY DREADS PENETRATION
AND REGRETS THIS

I shared your letter with Dr. Ashley Winter, a urologist in private practice in Portland, Oregon, and the co-host of *The Full Release*, a sex, health, and relationship podcast. Winter wanted to note that her comments are a general discussion of a medical topic and NOT individual medical advice. She wanted me to emphasize this point—which she also emphasizes at the top of her terrific podcast—because Winter is a responsible doctor and not a card-carrying member of the Amalgamated Advice Columnists of America. (Membership in the AACA entitles advice columnists to say pretty much whatever they want.)

"There are three issues at play here," said Winter. "First, the pain or 'cringey' sensation only associated with vaginal and Fleshlight penetration. Second, being too quick to come. And third, erectile dysfunction. HARDPART insightfully suggests his ED may be related to his performance anxiety as well as anticipated pain, and I would agree with this. I would add that his quick ejaculation is most likely also caused by a mix of ED and pain—the body adapts to pain and erection loss by letting the swimmers off the hook early."

But why do you experience this pain only during penetrative sex? What is it about PIV (penis in vagina) or PIF (penis in Fleshlight) that causes those painfully cringey feelings?

"If he thrusts more during these activities than he does during oral or hand stimulation, I would expect that either pelvic floor muscle dysfunction or a nerve issue related

to the lower spine could be causing the flares," said Winter. "If he were my patient, I would want to know if he has less pain when his partner is on top, which would mean his pelvis is moving less. Also, does he have chronic low back pain? Bowel or bladder issues?"

Winter and I continued to generally discuss the medical topics raised by your question, HARDPART, and we discussed—this is not, again, individual medical advice, but a general discussion—two things someone with your particular issue might want to think about doing. First, a guy with your problem could try taking Viagra or a related drug while also using a penis numbing spray. And a guy with your problem should also have his pelvic floor checked out. A urologist can help a guy with a problem like yours determine if there's something wrong with the complex web of muscles and nerves that crowd together around your junk and, if it is a pelvic floor issue, refer him to a physical therapist.

Finally, a suggestion from me, the person with the AACA card: A guy with a problem like yours—a guy whose dick works a certain way and has worked that way for decades—could save himself the hassle of physical therapy and the side effects of Viagra by accepting his dick and the way his dick works. There are women out there who prefer oral and outercourse to PIV, HARDPART, and you could bed those women with confidence.

Follow Dr. Ashley Winter on Twitter @AshleyGWinter, and check out *The Full Release* podcast, which she cohosts with comedian Mo Mandel, at thefullreleasepod.com.

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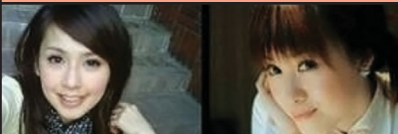
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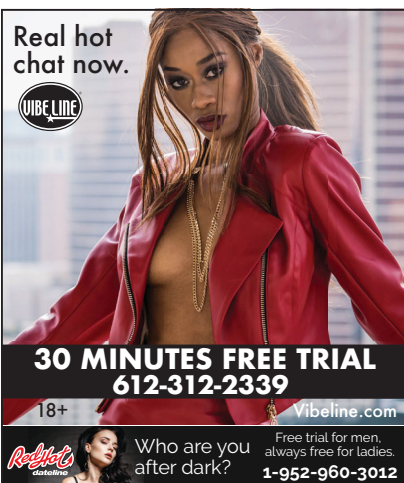
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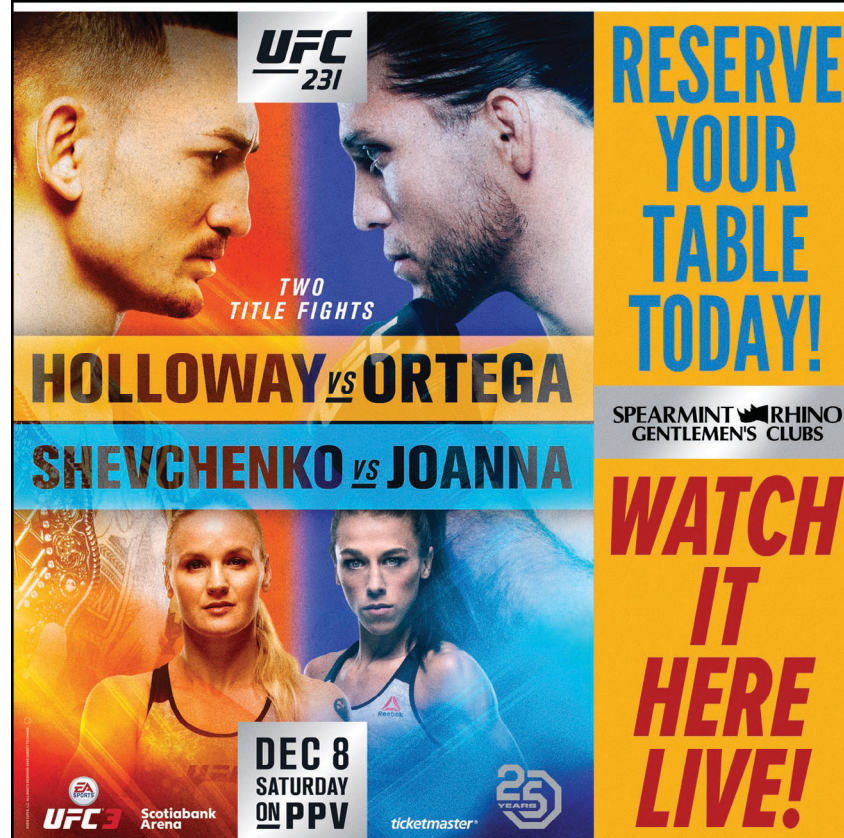
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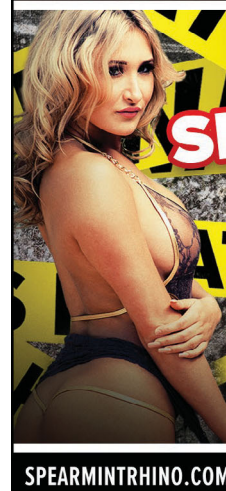


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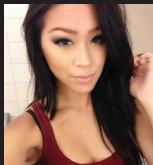




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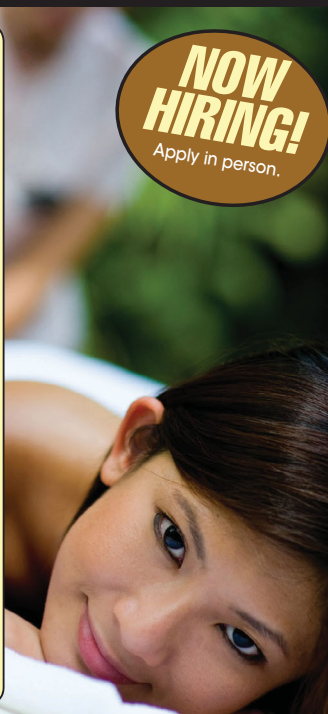


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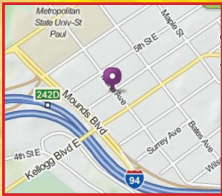
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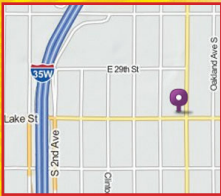


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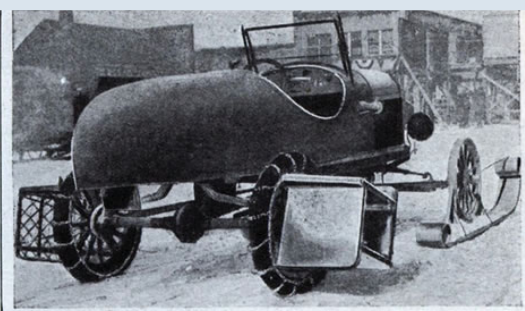
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